

# UNCLE SAM'S SPLENDID FIGHTING MACHINE OF 12,000 REGULARS READY IN CAMP AT TEXAS CITY



General Carter and Staff Reviewing Army at Texas City

## How the Second Division of the Army Was Mobilized Within Striking Distance of Mexico

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IN an isolated little treeless town on the Bay of Galveston whose name is perhaps unfamiliar to three-fourths of the inhabitants of Texas, let alone the United States, are encamped approximately nine thousand troops of the regular army awaiting the orders of their Commander in Chief, the President.

While the eyes of the world, and the United States in particular, are turned toward Mexico, and fresh developments are awaited with the keenest interest, how many Americans know that a division of regular troops is held in concentration at Texas City, Tex., or are interested enough to inquire as to its location? There is an impression among the public that the Government is holding some troops at Galveston only, but there is little information as to the number, the purpose for which they are held and what they are doing.

The elections in Mexico were held last month, and as no one can say that the results may not embroil the United States in a conflict the public will be interested in knowing in a general way what this fighting machine of 12,000 men has been doing since Mr. Taft ordered it to Texas last February, when the Mexican situation was acute. I do not propose to tell you how many Washington Monuments of broad nor how many Woolworth Buildings of coffee and sugar are consumed monthly by the troops nor that the necessary cattle in single file would stride the earth, but I will relate in a narrative manner why we came here and what we have been doing.

After the overthrow of Madero conditions in Mexico were so alarming that it seemed as if the United States would be compelled to intervene. This crisis preceded the inauguration of President Wilson by a few weeks only, and the Taft Administration, although continuing its policy of non-interference, decided to mobilize a division of regulars at a Southern seaport, preferably in Texas, so that the new President would have an advance force within striking distance should intervention prove necessary.

The General Staff had contemplated just such a concentration for a long while and had sent a board of officers to select a concentration point. This board selected Galveston for one division and Texas City for another on account of the excellent facilities for embarkation. The Second Division was divided between the two points.

It was never intended to hold troops at Texas City except for the necessary time attending embarkation, for no mere docking facilities could outweigh the disadvantages of Texas City for a permanent camp. The uncertainty of conditions in Mexico, however, has compelled the War Department to retain the troops there, and from a mere concentration point a permanent camp developed. Any favorable change in Mexican affairs would cause the relief of the troops, and this hope has buoyed

that carries off the heaviest rains in a few hours.

The troops are encamped by brigade, each regiment being assigned to a certain area. The tents are regularly pitched in rows, with forty feet interval between companies, and are of the pyramidal type, accommodating eight men comfortably. At one extremity of the street is an improvised building which serves as the kitchen and mess hall, and also as a recreation room.

Improvements have gone steadily on, each day bringing forth some little ingenious camping device for the convenience and comfort of the men, until now the camp is pointed to by the offi-

cers as the finest example of castramentation that the world has ever seen. This is, however, not due to its location for a better camp could have been pitched almost anywhere else. No European army in time of peace, or so large a part of an army, has ever been under canvas for so long a time, nor had to contend with such unusual and discouraging conditions, and this camp should be the pride of every American who wants to believe that the army he helps to support is at the top notch of efficiency.

The mobile army of the United States is organized into four tactical divisions; the first, second, third, and a cavalry division, each commanded by a major-general. Major-Gen. William H. Carter commands the second division, with troops scattered from Wyoming to Indiana, and when the President ordered the mobilization of this division the War Department simply sent one telegram to Gen. Carter at Chicago, directing him to concentrate his division. That was all the work or worry incumbent upon the War Department.

Gen. Carter directed the movement of the separate units of his division. The organization of our forces as out-



D Battery

4th Field Artillery

## Army Lieutenant Tells How Men Have Been Thoroughly Drilled and Are Now in Prime Condition

since its organization, and all efforts were directed toward making it an effective fighting machine with the least practicable delay, as it looked as if it would be called into active service in Mexico very shortly. The troops had been receiving a great deal of instruction in company work at the home stations. After a short review of this class of instruction the brigade and division manoeuvres were undertaken.

Almost the entire months of April and May were devoted to brigade and division problems, affording the Generals in command valuable practice in the actual tactical handling of their commands in the field. The progress made was amazing and of great value

miliar with methods adopted in our service since the Spanish War. The public will probably never again be subjected to the spectacle of camps filled with malaria, typhoid and other contagious diseases. The Medical Corps has practically eradicated typhoid by the prophylactic treatment, and preventive measures in regard to camp sanitation make a repetition of former conditions practically impossible. In this it has been assisted by the line officers, whose constant supervision over the sanitation of their commands is largely responsible for the great success attributed to the Medical Corps.

In all of this large body of troops living so closely together for seven months there has not been a single case of typhoid fever—a record of which any country should be very proud.

One of the most difficult problems that the officers of the army have to solve is the provision of adequate recreation for their men. The average citizen may not fully understand this, as ordinarily he leads a normal life; but the life of the soldier is more or less abnormal, and to counteract any ill effects of such an existence is the duty of every officer.

This difficulty is further augmented by our military policy, which for various reasons generally places troops in spots removed from cities where the average man finds his amusement. The result of this isolation is that a soldier must spend a large portion of his pay to reach a city before he can obtain any distraction, or else cheap, ordinary shows spring up in the vicinity of the post or camp intended solely for the purpose of fleecing the soldier of his money and furnishing no adequate return.

It is therefore incumbent upon the officers to provide good, clean, healthful recreation, so that the men may remain contented and the efficiency and morale may be unimpaired.

The chaplains, who take great interest in this work, have provided in nearly every regiment free moving picture shows, supported by contributions from the officers and from company funds. Nightly they are crowded, as there are no greater devotees of the "movies" than the soldiers.

During the summer months there have been opportunities for swimming and sailing, fishing and crabbing and all the delights that only the sea can bring. Each regiment has its baseball team. A league was formed, and a series of enjoyable games was provided for the loyal fans.

At Galveston the troops have the benefit of the finest surf. We at Texas City have the bay only, but it is sufficient to provide untold enjoyment for thousands of men whose good qualities are not always appreciated by the public they serve.

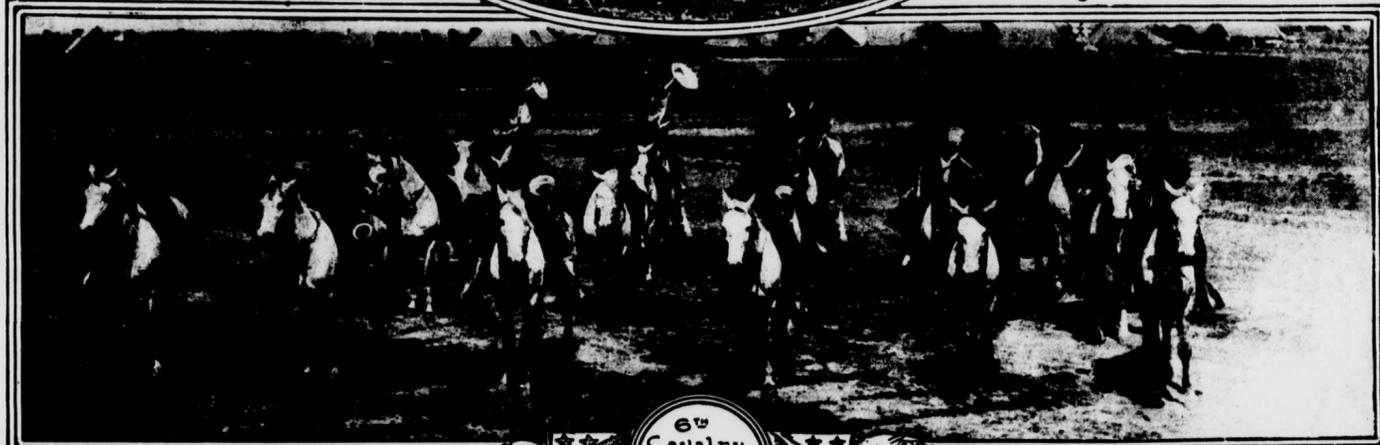
Isn't it a fact, Mr. Reader, that your idea of a soldier's life revolves around dress parade and a few hours devoted to drill? That he is not offended if I tell you that those two things are a very small part of a soldier's training. I am not going to tire you with a long list of odds recounting what our Tommy Atkins does every minute of the day, but let me ask you. Who looks after their clothes, their equipment, their barracks,

to all concerned, and in a short while brigades were moved over the terrain with the ease and dispatch of a battalion.

Upon the approach of hot weather (and it gets awfully hot in Texas) Gen. Carter curtailed the more extended manoeuvres, limiting the work to regimental, battalion and company problems, and to the individual instruction of the soldier. During the months of June, July and August this latter system of instruction was thoroughly carried out, with additional practice in field firing and target practice at known ranges.

In all of the manoeuvres the Medical Corps performed the duties that would be demanded of it in time of war, and to the observer it was very interesting. First aid stations were established along the firing line, then dressing stations further back under cover, and from here the "wounded" were transported by the ambulance company to the field hospital at Texas City.

The Signal Corps established telephonic and wireless communication between division and brigade headquarters, whence messages were relayed by orderly, flag, or motorcycle



6th Cavalry Band



View of Camp of 6th Brigade from Aeroplane No 18,400 Altitude



Wagon Trains.

the spirits of all during these seven months of trying conditions. Arriving last February, amid cold and rain, and conducted to swampy land for their camp site, the troops at once began to make the place habitable. Their first camp site was so hopeless that efforts were at once made to secure better ground. Finally suitable land or at least as good as could be obtained was found, and new camp sites were surveyed by the engineers and completely prepared by the soldiers before their removal from their former location. As this entire area is absolutely level, it had to be drained; but with the experience of past years behind them the officers devised a complete system of drainage

lined above was only completed and published to the army a few weeks before this mobilization, and the ease and dispatch with which the troops were moved proves that it is effective and that it is a long step toward a complete and definite organization of our mobile forces.

As a result the following troops were moved to Galveston and Texas City: Fourth Brigade.—Brigadier General Wisner. 23d Infantry from Indiana. 28th Infantry from Michigan. 27th Infantry from Illinois. Sixth Brigade.—Brigadier General Edwards. 11th Infantry from Wyoming.

18th Infantry from Wyoming and Montana. 22d Infantry from Texas. Fifth Brigade.—Brigadier General Davis. 4th Infantry from Nebraska and Arkansas. 7th Infantry from Kansas. 19th Infantry from Oklahoma and South Dakota. 28th Infantry from Minnesota. Auxiliary Troops.— 6th Cavalry from Iowa. 4th Artillery from Wyoming. Field Company D Signal Corps from Nebraska. Battalion Engineers from Kansas. Field Hospital from Kansas. (No. 2). Ambulance Company from Kansas. (No. 3). Field Bakery from Fort Riley, Kansas.

Our army is so small and so scattered that the difficulties of such a concentration are apparent, and it should be a matter of congratulation that it was, in this instance, done promptly and effectively, considering the great distances traveled and the fact that the military authorities are more or less dependent upon the caprices of the railroads.

It is the fashion to compare the rapid mobilization of European armies with that of our own, and always to the disadvantage of the latter, but I think I can safely say that if any European Government were compelled to transport troops from central Siberia to Bordeaux, France, a distance approxi-

mately equal to that from Wyoming to Texas, it would find the difficulties embarrassing and it would not be able to effect a mobilization as quickly as we did, notwithstanding that all or nearly all of the railroads of Europe are Government owned. The European Governments are not confronted with the great distances and transportation problems with which we have to contend, and comparisons cannot fairly be made.

Early in March, as soon as it was apparent that the troops would be held at Texas City for some time, a systematic scheme of instruction and training was commenced. This was the first time that the Second Division had been together to the various regimental commanders. The aeroplanes were used for scouting and did excellent work, not only in the manoeuvres but at other times. The officers and men gave splendid exhibitions of nerve and skill in the handling of these treacherous machines, and won the admiration of all by their devotion to such hazardous work.

The Second Division is in a state of high efficiency and the result of these seven months of arduous training would show to great advantage should the troops be compelled to cross the Rio Grande. The health of the command is a constant source of wonder to all not fa-